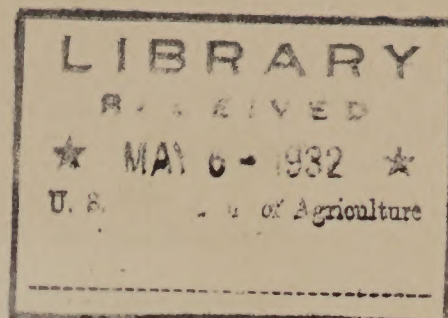


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MEETING - PROGRESSIVE GARDEN CLUB



A radio discussion by members of the Progressive Garden Club, W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, presiding, delivered through WRC and 47 other radio stations, associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Tuesday, April 26, 1932.

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ANNOUNCER:

Well folks, the Progressive Garden Club is holding its regular monthly meeting today, and the members have accepted the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Brown to meet at Shadylawn, their home in the country. Mrs. Brown has just telephoned that the members of the Club are about all on hand, and that they'll soon begin their meeting. Just a moment and we will tune in on them.

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FARMER BROWN:

Hello everybody, I'm awfully glad to have you meet at our house today. Come right on in, won't you?

CHAIRMAN:

Just a minute, Mr. Brown. If you don't mind, I think we would like to look around your place a bit before we go into the house.

FARMER BROWN:

Well, there really isn't much to see, I've been so busy getting my land in shape for my crops that I haven't had much time to work around the house, and things don't look as nice as I'd like. Let me get my hat and call Mrs. Brown and Betty to join us.

AUNT POLLY:

That's just like Mr. Brown - apologizing for the looks of his place.

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, and he has the swellest farm in the whole county. Look at that lawn and those elegant shade trees. And where did you ever see anything prettier than that orchard?

AUNT POLLY:

I think spring is the nicest time of the year with all of its fragrant blossoms and freshness. Here come the Browns.

CHAIRMAN:

How-do-you-do, Mrs. Brown, and how are you, Betty?

MRS. BROWN:

How are all of you? Sorry I was detained.

CHAIRMAN:

Say Brown, you've been planting a lot of new shrubbery along the foundation of your house, haven't you?

FARMER BROWN:

Yes, some of our shrubs around the house got sort of tall and ragged so we took them out and put in some smaller ones.

AUNT POLLY:

Where did you get such nice evergreens, Mr. Brown?

FARMER BROWN:

We sent off to a nursery for a few, but we got most of them right here at our local nursery north of town. Mary wanted to send away for them, but I like the ones we got here at home best.

AUNT POLLY:

What kind of an evergreen is that near the corner of the house?

FARMER BROWN:

Why, Aunt Polly, that is an Arborvitae, and those low ones are what they call Globe Arborvitaes. That evergreen about three feet high at the other corner of the house is an Irish Juniper. You see, we planted the taller-growing plants near the corners of the house then we filled in the spaces with low-growing evergreens, Japanese barberry and different kinds of shrubs. You might not believe it, but that plant over there in the corner is a Buttonbush that I dug up in our pasture.

CHAIRMAN:

You know you don't want your foundation plantings too crowded.

MRS. BROWN:

Do you think we have too many plants around our house?

CHAIRMAN:

No, Mrs. Brown, not for the present, but in a year or two when your evergreens and shrubs begin to crowd, you may have to take some of them out. You see, you want the foundation to show in a few places.

MRS. BROWN:

How do you like our shrubbery border at the far side of the lawn?

CHAIRMAN:

I think it's fine and so well arranged with a mixture of shrubs that bloom at different times. Where are your perennials, Mrs. Brown?

MRS. BROWN:

Part of them are in the shrubbery border then we have a whole border of perennials along the garden fence. I want you to see my rose bushes too, they're coming along fine, and I'll soon have blooms on some of them.

BETTY BROWN:

Mother! look here.

MRS. BROWN:

What is it Betty?

BETTY BROWN:

My zinnia seeds are up - hundreds of them. My, what a family of little plants. And look how all of my annuals are coming. Why - - - I just planted them last week.

CHAIRMAN:

Betty, you certainly will have a job thinning and transplanting all of those little plants. Where did you get your seeds?

BETTY BROWN:

Oh! Those are my penny-packet flower seeds that I bought at school. Ten packets for ten cents you know - the same as I had last year.

CHAIRMAN:

Do many of the school girls and boys plant these penny-packet seeds, Betty?

BETTY BROWN:

Yes indeed, and then when school opens in the fall, we all bring in samples of our flowers, and have a real flower show.

CHAIRMAN:

That's fine Betty, but you've got some work ahead of you if you take care of all these baby plants. Now, Mrs. Brown, what do you say we take a look at your roses?

MRS. BROWN:

I'm really pleased with the way my roses are doing this spring. They were so badly injured by that cold spell in March that I was afraid the plants were killed, but they've come out all right.

FARMER BROWN:

Yes, Mary sure is proud of her roses, and she had some mighty nice ones last year.

CHAIRMAN:

Now folks, I think we might just as well hold our meeting right out here in the garden. Mr. F. L. Mulford, Landscape Specialist of the Department of Agriculture, has been kind enough to leave his work today and spend a little time with us. I wonder if any of you have any questions on growing roses that you would like to ask Mr. Mulford.

AUNT POLLY:

I'd like to ask Mr. Mulford what I can do to keep my roses from getting that white, powdery coating all over their leaves and buds?

MR. MULFORD:

That coating is the Downy Mildew, and it is especially troublesome on some varieties. Dusting the rose plants with dusting sulphur before the disease gets started, then keeping up the dusting at frequent intervals, will usually control the mildew.

MRS. BROWN:

What kind of sulphur did you say?

MR. MULFORD:

Dusting sulphur. It is a special finely ground sulphur that is made for dusting purposes. You can get it with about ten per cent of lead arsenate mixed with it. The lead arsenate will kill any insects that may eat the foliage or the buds of the roses.

AUNT POLLY:

I want to know what insect it is that eats the holes in my rose buds, and how to control it.

MR. MULFORD:

Well, Aunt Polly, that is a little out of my line, but I guess it must be the Rose Budworm. Frequent and persistent dusting of the plants with lead arsenate is the best remedy. The combination sulphur-lead arsenate dust that I recommended for controlling mildew will usually do the work.

MRS. BROWN:

Do you think I have my bush roses pruned about right, Mr. Mulford?

MR. MULFORD:

Yes, Mrs. Brown, you have most of them pruned about right, but you could have cut the stems a little lower. If you want a small number of extra fine flowers with long stems, you must prune closely and leave only three or four buds on each main stem. If you want a larger number of flowers you can leave more buds, but your flowers will be smaller and the stems shorter.

AUNT POLLY:

What about summer pruning of roses?

MR. MULFORD:

If you cut your flowers with long stems, leaving only about two buds on the stub, that will take care of most of the summer pruning. But, if you allow the flowers to remain on the plants, you'll need to do considerable summer pruning to keep the bushes from getting too thick, or too leggy.

FARMER BROWN:

Mr. Mulford, I want you to take this spading fork and just turn up a little of the soil here in the rose bed. ----- What do you think of that for nice soil?

MR. MULFORD:

I think it is almost ideal. Did you put on any bone meal this spring?

FARMER BROWN:

Oh yes! about a large handful for each plant. When it came time to work the soil around the roses, I scattered the bone meal all over the bed, and then worked it in about three inches deep. Then I spread about two inches of barnyard compost over the bed. I calculate that will make good roses if anything will.

MR. MULFORD:

It certainly will, and I judge you had pretty good soil to start with.

FARMER BROWN:

Oh yes, it was pretty good loam. You see, this part of the place used to be the old garden before we enlarged the yard, and moved the garden over toward the orchard. I suppose this ground has been well manured every year for nigh onto fifty years.

CHAIRMAN:

I'll say you people who live on farms have it on us town gardeners, because you can build up your garden soil until it's so rich and loamy that anything will grow on it. Then, there's another thing, when you get your soil full of humus, it stands the drought so much better.

MRS. BROWN:

That reminds me to ask Mr. Mulford about watering roses. Should they be given a large amount of water?

MR. MULFORD:

Very little watering will be necessary in regions where the summer rainfall is abundant and well distributed, except in times of extended drought. In sections where the rainfall is not so well distributed, the roses should be given a good watering about once a week. In the irrigated sections, the roses will require watering whenever the soil gets dry.

FARMER BROWN:

How about cultivating roses, Mr. Mulford? How deep should the ground be worked?

MR. MULFORD:

Roses want clean, shallow cultivation. Where the plants are not mulched, the surface should be stirred a couple of inches deep as soon as the soil is dry enough after a rain or a watering. Remember that no weeds should be allowed to grow in the rose bed, and that no plants of any kind should be grown among the roses, as the roses require all of the plant food and moisture in the soil for their own growth.

MRS. BROWN:

Now, if we are through looking at the roses, suppose we go over to the perennial border along the garden fence. I have tried so hard to grow good perennials, but I don't succeed in the way I'd like.

MR. MULFORD:

What seems to be the trouble, Mrs. Brown:

MRS. BROWN:

Well, I think it is a combination of troubles - - mostly lack of knowledge of how to grow them, I guess.

MR. MULFORD:

That is frequently the case, but soil and climate have a lot to do with success or failure in growing perennials. Take the delphiniums, for example, they require a rather light, well drained soil. Delphiniums do best in the north central sections.

AUNT POLLY:

I like Columbines, Mr. Mulford.

MR. MULFORD:

Yes, Columbines are adapted for growing almost everywhere, but many people try to grow them on soil that is too wet. Did you ever notice how the wild Columbines often grow on a steep bank among the rocks where the soil gets pretty dry at times?

MRS. BROWN:

Yes, Mr. Mulford, but I've noticed that there is always plenty of leaf-mold and humus in the woods' soil where the wild perennials grow.

MR. MULFORD:

Yes, Mrs. Brown, and it is important that you have plenty of humus in the soil of your perennial borders. Then, the way you plant them makes a difference. Take peonies, for example, many of the failures are due to deep planting. Peonies should be planted not more than two inches below the surface. Iris, for example, can be grown in most parts of the country, but should be planted very shallow, in fact, the roots will grow if they are simply laid on top of the ground. You have to provide the right conditions for each kind of perennial, but as I said climate has a lot to do with it.

AUNT POLLY:

I think Chrysanthemums are especially nice for the perennial border, and they give you flowers late in the fall.

MR. MULFORD:

Yes, Aunt Polly, Chrysanthemums can be grown most everywhere in the southern and middle sections of the country. Remember, that Chrysanthemums want a rich soil and lots of fertility - preferably in the form of liquid fertilizers. Day lilies are also fine for growing in nooks and corners, and a few old-fashioned hollyhocks are fine for growing along a back fence or some place of that kind.

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. Brown, I don't think you have any reason to complain about the way your perennials look. You have quite a variety and they all seem to be starting off nicely. I suppose you will have a lot of annual flowers this year.

MRS. BROWN:

Oh yes! we will, but Betty specializes on the annuals - pansies are one of her favorites. Here is her pansy bed near the back of the house.

CHAIRMAN:

All right folks - let's take a look at Betty's pansies.

BETTY BROWN:

My pansies are not so good as usual. That freeze in March almost ruined them, but it seemed to just make the weeds grow.

MR. MULFORD:

Weeds always seem to grow better than bur flowers, Betty.

MRS. BROWN:

Betty! Didn't you clean the weeds out of your pansy bed as I told you?

BETTY BROWN:

No mother, I had my home work to do, and then Gertie and Frank came and asked me to play tennis, and when I got through playing tennis, you called me to help with the dishes -----

MRS. BROWN:

Excuses, excuses, --- now young lady this evening, I want you to take a trowel and get every weed out of that pansy bed.

BETTY BROWN:

All right mother, if you will help me thin my zinnias.

MR. MULFORD:

Let me suggest Betty, that if you will work a little fine compost in among your pansy plants, then keep them watered, and the flowers picked closely, you will have pansies all summer. But, of course, that wouldn't be true of the South.

BETTY BROWN:

Yes, I sometimes get all of the children in the neighborhood to come in and pick pansies. That helps me to keep them picked, and they do keep right on blooming.

MR. MULFORD:

In the South, pansies are best if started in the late summer, and then they will bloom all winter. Certain of the hardy violets are also good for growing in borders in the South.

CHAIRMAN:

Well folks, I think we have all enjoyed our ramble through the Brown's flower garden, and we sincerely thank Mr. and Mrs. Brown and Betty for giving us such a good and instructive time, and Mr. Mulford, we thank you for being with us today. If any of you have any special questions about the improvement of your home surroundings to ask Mr. Mulford, I am sure he will be glad to answer them or send you a publication that gives the information. The next meeting of the Club will be on the last Tuesday of May, and until then the Club stands adjourned.

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ANNOUNCER:

That brings to a close the meeting of the Progressive Garden Club for today. Those taking part in our program today were Mr. W. R. Beattie, as Chairman, Mr. Frank L. Teuton, as Farmer Brown, Miss Norma L. Hughes, as Mrs. Brown, Miss Patricia Beattie, as Betty Brown, Miss Rose Glaspey, as Aunt Polly, and Mr. F. L. Mulford, as guest speaker.

